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BIWEEKLY REPORT

SINO-SOVIET BLOC ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN UNDERDEVELOPED AREAS

EIC-WGR 1/115 4 July 1960

PREPARED BY THE WORKING GROUP
ON SINO-SOVIET BLOC ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES
IN UNDERDEVELOPED AREAS

ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

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Printed and Disseminated by the Central Intelligence Agency

Approved For Release 2005/08/22 CRF-RDP92B01090R000700010115-3

Summary of Events 17 - 30 June 1960

An agreement concluded in Prague on 16 June between Czechoslovakia and the United Arab Republic provides for a credit of \$20.8 million for the purchase of machinery and equipment to be used in the construction of various public utility projects in the Egyptian sector.

In an unusual move the USSR on 18 June deposited in a New York bank \$2 million to the account of the Ethiopian Government. This sum is to be charged to the Soviet \$100 million line of credit offered in July 1959 and is the first drawing under the credit.

India and the USSR signed an agreement on 16 June calling for the utilization of approximately \$69 million of the Soviet \$375 million credit advanced in July 1959 for production of petroleum and natural gas in India and for technical collaboration in petroleum exploration and development. On the same day an Indian purchasing mission left for Moscow to buy Soviet drilling equipment and to discuss the question of whether or not additional Soviet technicians could be obtained for work in India. The USSR has also offered to supply large quantities of crude oil and lesser amounts of refined petroleum products at substantial discounts from the prices India now pays.

On 11 June, Indonesia officially took possession of four Soviet Mi-4 helicopters, the first of 20 such aircraft purchased under a contract signed in October 1959 that specified a total price of \$5,460,000, no down payment, and repayment over a 10-year period at 2 percent interest.

The Indonesian Government has hired a team of Rumanian petroleum experts to assist in the rehabilitation of the oilfields in northern Sumatra and possibly to serve as advisers to the Petroleum Board in Djakarta.

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The USSR has agreed to purchase 11,800 tons of coffee from Brazil in exchange for Soviet wheat, diesel oil, and crude oil. These transactions, involving the exchange of goods valued at \$28.3 million, are the only sales concluded to date under the Soviet-Brazilian trade and payments agreement of December 1959, which set a level of trade of \$25 million each way as the goal for 1960.

A Cuban mission headed by Raul Castro is in Czechoslovakia -- probably to sign an arms agreement.

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